PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Toru Maeda et al.

Serial No.: Unknown Examiner: Unknown

Filed: December 26, 2001 Group Art Unit: Unknown

For: VEHICLE REMOTE CONTROLLER

Docket No.: 1018.1130101

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail mailing label number of: EL855120282US, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 26th day of December, 2001.

By Kathleen L Boekley
Kathleen L. Boekley

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the heading at page 1, line 1 to read as follows:

-- Title of the Invention --.

Please replace the heading at page 1, line 5 to read as follows:

-- Background of the Invention --.

Please delete the heading "Background Art" at page 1, line 14.

Please replace the heading at page 3, line 8 to read as follows:

-- Brief Summary of the Invention --.

Please replace the heading at page 5, line 16 to read as follows:

-- Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 30 on page 13 to read as follows:

-- The transceiver 11 does not have to be arranged on the center console 3 and may be arranged anywhere as long as it is located near the center line of the vehicle 1 in the passenger compartment 2. Further, the transceiver 11 may be arranged anywhere in the passenger compartment 2 of the vehicle such as on the driver's seat or in the instrument panel. It is desirable that the transceiver 11 be arranged near the center of the passenger compartment 2 of the vehicle (away from the door). --

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A vehicle remote controller comprising a portable device carried by a driver and a transceiver arranged in a vehicle to output a request signal for intercommunicating with the portable device and to output a transponder driving radio wave, wherein said transceiver has a common antenna for transmitting the request signal and the transponder driving radio wave.

2. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 1, wherein said transceiver outputs the request signal in at least one of a first area, which is in a vehicle passenger compartment, and an area outside the vehicle passenger compartment and outputs the transponder driving radio wave in a second are, which is in the vehicle passenger compartment.

3. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 2, wherein said first area in the vehicle passenger compartment is larger than the second area in the vehicle passenger compartment.

4. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 2, wherein said antenna is arranged in adjacent near a center of the vehicle.

5. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 4, wherein said antenna is arranged on a center console.

6. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 5, wherein said transceiver has, within the second area of the vehicle passenger compartment, a mounting portion, on which the portable device is place, and a detecting means, which is arranged on the mounting portion to detect whether the portable device is placed, and when the detecting means detects that the portable device is placed on the mounting portion, the transceiver outputs the transponder driving radio wave.

7. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 2, wherein said vehicle has a key switch arranged in the second area in the vehicle for being able to start an engine, and the portable device has a mechanical key and the mechanical key has a transponder [(35)] for receiving the transponder driving radio wave for generating electric power from the transceiver and generating a transponder signal according to the transponder driving radio wave and transmitting the transponder signal to the transceiver.

8. (Once Amended) A vehicle remote controller comprising a transceiver arranged in a vehicle to generate a request signal and a transponder driving radio wave, and a portable device carried by a driver, the portable device having a request signal processing circuit for receiving the request signal from the transceiver, generating a first signal based on the request signal, and transmitting the first signal to the transceiver, and a transponder for receiving the transponder driving radio wave, which generates electric power, from the transceiver, generating a transponder signal based on the transponder driving radio wave, and transmitting the transponder signal to the transceiver, wherein said transceiver includes a common antenna for transmitting the request signal and the transponder driving radio wave to the portable device.

9. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 8, wherein said transceiver outputs the request signal to at least one of a first area, which is in a vehicle passenger compartment, and an area outside the vehicle passenger compartment and outputs the transponder driving radio wave to a second area in the vehicle passenger compartment.

10. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 9, wherein said first area in the vehicle passenger compartment is larger than the second area in the vehicle passenger compartment.

11. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 9, wherein said antenna is arranged near a center of the vehicle.

12. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 11, wherein said antenna is arranged on a center console.

13. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 12, wherein said transceiver has, within the second area of the vehicle passenger compartment, a mounting portion, on which the portable device is placed, and a detecting means, which is arranged on the mounting portion, to detect whether the portable device is placed, and when the detecting means detects that the portable device is placed on the mounting portion, the transceiver outputs the transponder driving radio wave.

14. (Once Amended) A transceiver of a vehicle remote controller arranged in a vehicle to output a request signal, used to intercommunicate with a portable device carried by a driver, to one of a first area, which is in a vehicle passenger compartment, and an area outside the vehicle passenger compartment, and to output a transponder driving radio wave to a second area in the vehicle passenger compartment, wherein said transceiver comprises a common antenna for transmitting the request signal and the transponder driving radio wave.

REMARKS

Applicants request that this Preliminary Amendment be made of record and fully considered prior to the first office action on the merits. Any inquiry regarding this matter may be directed to the undersigned representative at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Toru Maeda et al.

By their attorney,

Date: 12/26/01

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Serial No.

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

Heading beginning at line 1 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

[SPECIFICATION] Title of the Invention.

Heading beginning at line 5 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

[TECHNICAL FIELD] Background of the Invention.

Heading beginning at line 14 of page 1 has been deleted.

Heading beginning at line 8 of page 3 has been amended as follows:

[DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION] Brief Summary of the Invention.

Heading beginning at line 16 of page 5 has been amended as follows:

[BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION] Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments.

Paragraph beginning at line 30 of page 13 has been amended as follows:

-- The transceiver 11 does not have to be arranged on the center console 3 and may be arranged anywhere as long as it is located near the center line of the vehicle 1 in the passenger compartment 2. Further, the transceiver 11 may be arranged anywhere in the passenger compartment 2 of the vehicle such as on the driver's seat or in the instrument panel. It is desirable that the transceiver 11 be arranged near the center of the passenger compartment 2 of the vehicle (away from the door). --

In the Claims:

Claim X has been cancelled.

Claims 1-14 have been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A vehicle remote controller [including] comprising a portable device [(31)] carried by a driver and a transceiver [(11)] arranged in a vehicle to output a request signal for intercommunicating with the portable device and to output a transponder driving radio wave, [the vehicle remote controller being characterized in that:

the] wherein said transceiver has a common antenna [(14)] for transmitting the request signal and the transponder driving radio wave.

2. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said transceiver outputs the request signal in at least one of a first area [(A1)], which is in a vehicle passenger compartment, and an area outside the vehicle passenger compartment and outputs the transponder driving radio wave in a second are [(A2)], which is in the vehicle passenger compartment.

3. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 2, [characterized in that the] wherein said first area [(A1)] in the vehicle passenger compartment is larger than the second area [(A2)] in the vehicle passenger compartment.

4. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 2 [or 3], [characterized in that the] wherein said antenna [(14)] is arranged in adjacent near a center of the vehicle.

5. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 4, [characterized in that the] wherein said antenna [(14)] is arranged on a center console [(3)].

6. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 5, [characterized in that the] wherein said transceiver has, within the second area of the vehicle passenger compartment, a mounting portion [(15a)], on which the portable device is place, and a detecting means [(16)], which is arranged on the mounting portion to detect whether the portable device is placed, and when the detecting means detects that the portable device is placed on the mounting portion, the transceiver outputs the transponder driving radio wave.

7. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 2, [characterized in that the] wherein said vehicle has a key switch [(41)] arranged in the second area in the vehicle for being able to start an engine, and the portable device has a mechanical key [(42)] and the mechanical key has a transponder [(35)] for receiving the transponder driving radio wave for generating electric power from the transceiver and generating a transponder signal according to the transponder driving radio wave and transmitting the transponder signal to the transceiver.

8. (Once Amended) A vehicle remote controller [including] comprising a transceiver [(11)] arranged in a vehicle to generate a request signal and a transponder driving radio wave, and a portable device [(31)] carried by a driver, the portable device having a request signal processing circuit [(30)] for receiving the request signal from the transceiver, generating a first signal based on the request signal, and transmitting the first signal to the transceiver, and a transponder [(35)] for receiving the transponder driving radio wave, which generates electric power, from the transceiver, generating a transponder signal based on the transponder driving radio wave, and transmitting the transponder signal to the transceiver, [the vehicle remote controller being characterized in that:

the] wherein said transceiver includes a common antenna [(14)] for transmitting the request signal and the transponder driving radio wave to the portable device.

9. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 8, [characterized in that the] wherein said transceiver outputs the request signal to at least one of a first area [(A1)], which is in a vehicle passenger compartment, and an area outside the vehicle passenger compartment and outputs the transponder driving radio wave to a second area [(A2)] in the vehicle passenger compartment.

10. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 9, [characterized in that the] wherein said first area [(A1)] in the vehicle passenger compartment is larger than the second area [(A2)] in the vehicle passenger compartment.

11. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 9 [or 10], [characterized in that the] wherein said antenna [(14)] is arranged near a center of the vehicle.

12. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 11, [characterized in that the] wherein said antenna [(14)] is arranged on a center console.

13. (Once Amended) The vehicle remote controller according to claim 12, [characterized in that the] wherein said transceiver has, within the second area of the vehicle passenger compartment, a mounting portion, on which the portable device is placed, and a detecting means, which is arranged on the mounting portion, to detect whether the portable device is placed, and when the detecting means detects that the portable device is placed on the mounting portion, the transceiver outputs the transponder driving radio wave.

14. (Once Amended) A transceiver of a vehicle remote controller arranged in [the] a vehicle to output a request signal, used to intercommunicate with a portable device [(31)] carried by a driver, to one of a first area [(A1)], which is in a vehicle passenger compartment, and an area outside the vehicle passenger compartment, and to output a transponder driving radio wave to a second area [(A2)] in the vehicle passenger compartment, [the] wherein said transceiver [being characterized by:]

comprises a common antenna [(14)] for transmitting the request signal and the transponder driving radio wave.